



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release AUGUST 26, 1956

SENTIMENT AND SCIENCE WORK FOR THE LONGHORN AND THE BISON

Sentiment and science are working for the longhorn and the bison with the Fish and Wildlife Service lending a willing hand, the Department of the Interior said today.

The Fish and Wildlife Service reported that the city of Denver, Colorado, is eagerly seeking some longhorn cattle for its centennial celebration next year. In making their request, Denver officials pointed out that "When Denver was a struggling pioneer town on Cherry Creek, the natural lake in what is now City Park was a waterhole for these same critters we are now trying to exhibit there."

Longhorn cattle were not native to that section of Colorado but were brought in to fill Denver's meat requirements when the buffalo disappeared, and thus became associated with the city's early days. The Service is now arranging for Denver to obtain four longhorns for the park from the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma.

The Service is also arranging for Dr. I. Jay Sadow, a veterinarian of Roseville, Georgia, to get two buffaloes for his experiment on producing a new breed of cattle by crossing the bison with Brahmas.

An extensive experiment in Canada some years ago--the Wainwright experiment--seemed to prove that crossing cattle and bison would produce no practical results. But Dr. Sadow contends that there has been no experiment in the crossing of bison with Brahma cattle and that "according to my study of genetics, eventually an offspring would be obtained which would be not only unusually hardy in nature but should attain unusually large proportions of size in a minimum of time and feeding."

Also along the scientific front, there is an experiment at Iowa State College on feeding longhorn cattle. For decades the longhorn was the meat animal of the Nation but was eventually displaced by other breeds which made more pounds of meat per pound of feed. A year ago the Service contributed six longhorns from the Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge in Nebraska to Iowa State College for the feeding

*Office
HIS
8/29*

tests. The results, however, differed widely between individual animals; therefore, another feeding experiment is now being made on six more longhorns.

Twenty-five buffaloes will be sent from the Wichita Refuge to the Trexler-Lehigh County Game Preserve in Pennsylvania to rebuild the herd there. Twenty of these animals will go to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, and another 20 will be shipped to the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park in North Dakota and probably some longhorns if the findings of the National Park Service historian verify the past existence of longhorns in the park area.

The Fish and Wildlife Service receives numerous requests from private and public sources for surplus animals or meat, heads or hides. Where the request comes from a public agency and the animals are to be used for public purposes, there is no charge and the receiving agency stands the cost of transportation. When the request is received from private sources, a standard charge is made. In the case of nonmigrant animals such as deer, sheep, or goats, approval of the State in which the animals are to be taken is necessary before any can be taken from the Federal refuge. In many cases the State prefers to do the live-trapping of the animals. The bison and longhorn are under the jurisdiction of the Fish and Wildlife Service and therefore State approval for their removal is not required.

A number of cities have also put in applications for surplus refuge animals. Greenville, Texas; Knoxville, Tennessee; and Guymon, Oklahoma, are each getting a longhorn steer for their public areas, as well as the Ft. Griffith State Park in Texas. Birmingham, Alabama, and Dodge City, Kansas, are getting buffalo for their public zoos.

Six buffalo hides will be sent to Jamestown, Virginia, for use in the 350th anniversary festival there. The Panhandle-Plains Historical Society of Canyon, Texas, will get the head and hide of a longhorn. The Cincinnati zoo is asking for bison, beaver, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goats. Albuquerque, New Mexico, wants deer and elk while St. Paul, Minnesota, is asking for a pair of elk.

Other nations, as well, send requests to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Cuba wants 24 deer from the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas for air shipment this fall. Guatemala is getting two buffalo and two elk from the Wichita refuge and the Lisbon, Portugal, zoo is to receive a pair of buffalo.

X X X